REMARKS

An Official Action mailed January 27, 2005 rejected claims 1-12. An interview took place over the course of several telephone calls during February 14 and 15, 2005. Applicant thanks Examiner for examination and the subsequent interview.

In response, claims have been amended as indicated above. Claims have been added as indicated above. The amendments add no new matter. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Interview Summary

Participants to the interview include Examiner Jonathan Adams and Applicant's representatives, Mark Kirkland and Dorian Cartwright. The participants discussed claim 1 with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,233,565 by Lewis et al. ("Lewis"), U.S. Patent No. 6,335,995 by Jacobs et al. ("Jacobs"), and digital signatures in general. No agreement was reached.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Official Action rejected claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Jacobs. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Claim 1 as amended recites a server computer, one or more electronic records and at least one user terminal. The one or more records can be retrieved as a web page when a URL containing a hash value computed from a file is presented to the server computer. The user terminal can compute the hash value to retrieve the one or more electronic records in an initial authentication communication with the server computer.

Lewis generally discloses a system for conducting Internet based financial transactions between a client and a server. (Abstract). Lewis discloses that a server registers a user through a client. (Col. 2, ll. 30-36). Lewis discloses a server having a transaction module to authenticate a client prior to performing a transaction. During authentication, the server generates a

public/private key pair for the client. (col. 21, ll. 6-7). Also, Lewis discloses a client having a server receipt generation module or remote service provider to generate a receipt as evidence of payment. The receipt includes a digital signature of the client and unique indicium identifying the executed transaction. (Abstract; col. 38, ll. 42-47). The receipt can be printed by the client. (Col. 38, ll. 45-46. Finally, Lewis discloses a third party seller that can scan the unique indicium on the printed receipt at a point of consumption. (Col. 38, ll. 47-50).

However, Lewis fails to disclose a user terminal operable to use a URL containing a hash to retrieve from a server computer, in an initial authentication communication with the server computer, a web page that contains information about a file. The claimed initial authentication communication can obtain electronic records without previous set-up. On the other hand, Lewis requires multiple authentication contacts with the server (i.e., registration, authentication, and scanning). In particular, Lewis discloses scanning a receipt after it has been digitally signed. However, the Lewis receipt cannot be generated without first obtaining a key pair from the server. Furthermore, the key pair is obtained after a registration process involving a password.

In addition, Lewis teaches away from the claimed user terminal. The claimed user terminal computes a hash and retrieves electronic records. Lewis teaches using separate entities for digitally signing a receipt and scanning a receipt. Because the Lewis client and third party are different entities, the receipt serves to authenticate the client to the third party. On the other hand, if the client and third party were combined into a single entity, there would be no reason for the authentication. The claimed terminal is able to retrieve electronic records directly without the extra steps of printing a receipt and having an outside terminal verification. Thus, Lewis fails to disclose at least the user terminal of claim 1.

Jacobs generally discloses a server to support multiple-request operations in a stateless environment, such as the web. (Abstract). Jacobs discloses that the state information may include the identify of the client, the ID and status of the transaction, and what has already transpired in the transaction. (Col. 31, ll. 49-52). The state information may be sent to the client in the form of a cookie or it may be incorporated into a URL and returned to the client. (Col. 31,

ll. 54-56). Jacobs teaches that the client can send the URL whenever it requests service from the server. (Col. 33, ll. 40-43).

However, Jacobs fails to disclose a user terminal operable to use a URL containing a hash to retrieve from a server computer, in an initial authentication communication with the server computer, a web page that contains information about a file. As discussed above, the claimed initial authentication communication allows electronic records to be obtained without previous set-up. The Jacobs server, in tracking states across multiple-request operations, inherently requires multiple communications. Moreover, the claimed hash is used to retrieve electronic records, but the Jacobs URL merely communicates a client state to the server. Furthermore, the claimed user terminal computes a hash value of a file. Jacobs fails to disclose any file in possession of its client, or any hashing of a file. Thus, Jacobs fails to disclose at least the user terminal of claim 1.

Since Jacobs fails to cure the deficiencies of Lewis, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over a combination of Jacobs and Lewis. Furthermore, claims depending on independent claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 2

Claim 2 as amended recites a server computer, one or more electronic records, and at least one user terminal. The one or more records are indexed by a hash value computed from a particular file. The at least one terminal can compute the hash value and retrieve a web page containing information about the particular file, in an initial authentication communication with a server computer, including submitting a URL containing the computer hash to the server computer. Claim 2 and related dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 9

Claim 9 as amended recites a server computer including one or more electronic records and means for responding to client requests. The one or more records are indexed by a hash

value computed from a particular file. The means for responding to client requests retrieves an
appropriate electronic record in an initial authentication communication with a server computer.
Claim 9 and related dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 10

Claim 10 as amended recites at least one user terminal. The at least one terminal can
compute the hash value and retrieve a web page containing information about the particular file,
in an initial authentication communication with a server computer, including submitting a URL
containing the computer hash to the server computer. Claim 10 and related dependent claims are
allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 12

Claim 12 as amended recites a method including storing one or more electronic records,
identifying a first file for authentication, computing a hash value of the first file, and retrieving a
web page containing information about the first file. The one or more records are indexed by a
hash value computed from a particular file. Retrieving a web page includes retrieving the web
page in an initial authentication communication with a server computer. Claim 10 is allowable
for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 13

Claim 13 as amended recites a server computer and a terminal. The server computer
indexes electronic records according to hash values. The terminal makes an initial authentication
communication, including computer a hash value and retrieving an electronic record based on a
URL including the hash value. Claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

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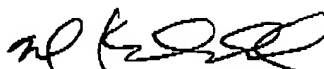Page   : 10 of 10

Conclusion

  Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the presented claims are in condition for

allowance.

  Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

        Respectfully submitted,

Date:_____3/28/05_____

        Mark D. Kirkland
        Reg. No. 40,048

Fish & Richardson P.C.
500 Arguello Street, Suite 500
Redwood City, California 94063
Telephone: (650) 839-5017
Facsimile: (650) 839-5071

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